June 8, 2004

Mr. H. B. Barron, Executive Vice President Nuclear Generation Duke Energy Corporation 526 South Church Street P.O. Box 1006 Charlotte, NC 28201-1006

SUBJECT: DEFERRAL OF REVIEW OF LICENSING ACTION FOR DUKE ENERGY

CORPORATION

Dear Mr. Barron:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that review of your request dated June 17, 2003, to use an alternative to the requirements of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, for Metal and Concrete Containments (Duke Energy Corporation Serial Number 03-GO-010) is being deferred until the beginning of fiscal year 2005 that starts October 1, 2004. This request involves Catawba Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, McGuire Nuclear Station, Units 1 and 2, and Oconee Nuclear Station, Units 1, 2 and 3. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is deferring review of this action to support the review of security plan, safeguard contingency, and security personnel training and qualification plan changes, required by an April 29, 2003, Commission Order. I have discussed the deferral of this action with Mr. Gill of your staff.

Please have a member of your staff inform me if circumstances change with regard to the impact on your ability to safely operate your facilities as a result of the deferral of this action. I can be contacted at 301-415-1419.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Leonard N. Olshan, Sr. Project Manager, Section 1, Project Directorate II Division of Licensing Project Management Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-413, 50-414, 50-369, 50-370, 50-269, 50-270 & 50-287

cc: See next page

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